

In the Claims

Please amend the claims as follows.

1. (Currently amended) A method of treating or preventing hypertension comprising administering a therapeutically effective amount of a composition consisting essentially of an xanthine oxidase inhibitor to a patient in need of such treatment.

Claim 2 (Canceled).

3. (Withdrawn) A method of treating coronary heart disease comprising administering a therapeutically effective amount of an agent, or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, capable of reducing uric acid levels in a patient in need of such treatment.

4. (Withdrawn) A method of treating and preventing eclampsia comprising administering a therapeutically effective amount of an agent, or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, capable of reducing uric acid levels in a patient in need of such treatment.

5. (Currently amended) A composition for treating or preventing hypertension ~~comprising~~consisting essentially of an xanthine oxidase inhibitor or a pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof .

6. (Withdrawn) The agent capable of reducing uric acid levels, as recited in Claim 5, which is gene therapy that targets the overexpression of uricase.

7. (Previously presented) The composition of Claim 5, wherein the xanthine oxidase inhibitor is allopurinol, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

8. (Withdrawn) The agent capable of reducing uric acid levels, as recited in Claim 5, which is a uricosuric agent selected from the group consisting of: losartan, benzbromarone, benziadarone, probenecid, sulfinpyrazone, ethebencid, orotic acid, ticrynafen and zoxazolamine, or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

9. (Withdrawn) The agent capable of reducing uric acid levels, as recited in Claim 5, which is a supplement of uricase protein that is delivered as a conjugate with polyethylene glycol or an alternate delivery system.

10. (Withdrawn) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a renin angiotensin system (RAS) inhibitor, or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof and the agent, or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, capable of reducing uric acid levels as recited in Claim 5, and a pharmaceutical carrier.

11. (Withdrawn) A combination therapy comprising the administration, concomitantly, simultaneously or sequentially, of therapeutically effective amounts of a RAS inhibitor, or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and the agent, or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, capable of reducing uric acid levels as recited in Claim 5.

12. (Withdrawn) The pharmaceutical composition levels as recited in Claim 10, further comprising a diuretic, or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

13. (Withdrawn) A combination therapy comprising the administration, concomitantly, simultaneously or sequentially, of therapeutically effective amounts of a combination of a RAS inhibitor, or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof with a diuretic, or

pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof and the agent, or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, capable of reducing uric acid levels as recited in Claim 5.

14. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the xanthine oxidase inhibitor is allopurinol or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

15 (New) A method of treating or preventing hypertension comprising administering to a patient in need thereof a therapeutically effective amount of a uric acid lowering agent, with the proviso that the uric acid lowering agent is not losartan.